



**CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA**

**Date:** May 31, 2016

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield – City Manager  
**Through:** W. Bowman Ferguson – Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Marvin G. Williams – Director of Public Works

**Subject:** Response to Citizen Request to Appear re: Flooding & Drainage Situation at Residence 1809 Bradford Circle

The Department of Public Works (DPW) most recently made contact with Ms. Arrington-McGee regarding drainage problems in the cul-de-sac of the gravel street Bradford Circle on Thursday April 7, 2016, April 14, 2016 and Friday, May 6, 2016. In summer 2015, the DPW informed Ms. Arrington-McGee that the DPW intended to resolve the drainage issues on Bradford Circle through a City contract project, at no expense to the private property owners, and provided a rough estimate of a timeframe. On April 7, 2016, the DPW provided Ms. Arrington-McGee with a more detailed project timeline. The project still needs to be designed, bid and contracted, with construction expected between November 2016 and April 2017. We also agreed to meet with her on site to investigate whether there was anything else DPW Maintenance could do in the interim. The site meeting was to take place on Thursday April 14, 2016. When DPW staff arrived, Ms. Arrington-McGee informed staff that she had another meeting and left the site. At that time staff agreed to further survey the site to determine if additional interim maintenance work would help the problem and to inform her of our conclusions. On Friday May 6, 2016, DPW informed Ms. Arrington-McGee that there was little PW Maintenance could do in the interim.

Bradford Circle is a gravel street not constructed to City standards but annexed by the City in 1987. At the time of annexation, all of the lots on Bradford Circle were developed, with the exception of 1810 Bradford Circle. At that time, both public and private stormwater runoff flowed across and around the cul-de-sac and exited the public right-of-way through a ditch on the 1810 Bradford Circle property. Subsequently, a house, driveway and fence were constructed on the 1810 Bradford Circle property. That construction and related modifications blocked stormwater runoff from efficiently draining through and away from the cul-de-sac. Heavy rain events now cause flooding in the cul-de-sac and the front yards of 1810 and 1809 Bradford Circle. Several cost-effective attempts at maintenance that would alleviate the problem have been unsuccessful, mostly due to the complete blockage at the eastern end of the cul-de-sac and other failures discovered within a public and private drainage system in the middle of the cul-de-sac. Essentially, the remedy goes well beyond maintenance and will require a major redesign of the eastern end of the cul-de-sac and drainage systems within the right-of-way of Bradford Circle and on private property.

The Bradford Circle project is on the Stormwater Infrastructure projects list and is being handled by priority, as are all Stormwater Infrastructure projects.